



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## GLIMMER OF HOPE



### U.S. virus death toll hits 350,000; surge feared

In this Dec. 21, 2020 file photo, Michelle Chester, director of employee health services at Northwell Health, prepares the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Northwell Health's Long Island Jewish Valley Stream hospital in Valley Stream, N.Y.

Associated Press



DOWNTOWN TMA EATERY

## TASTE MY ARUBA

ORANJESTAD, ARUBA

Zoutmanstraat 1, unit 8 | 297-5881600 | tastemyaruba@gmail.com | www.tastemyaruba.com



ARUBA LIVING TODAY PRESENTS **COMMANDEURS** "A way of living today"

(+297) 593 - 91 77 | randolph@livingtoday.aw | www.livingtoday.aw

sale starts now

- PHASE 1 started september 2020
- PHASE 2 approx. start 1st quarter 2021
- PHASE 3 approx. start medio 2022

Starting at \$152,000,-

FULL SOLAR OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY POOL ELEVATOR COVERED PARKING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION LOW MAINTENANCE

HEADING BACK HOME? OFFERING REMOTE TESTING:  

## PRE-TRAVEL COVID-19 PCR TEST

TESTING AVAILABILITY: MONDAY TO FRIDAY: 7AM TO 4PM

SAME DAY RESULTS CONDUCT TEST BEFORE 11AM

LEAVING ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY?  
CONDUCT TEST ON FRIDAY BEFORE 11AM  
RESULTS ARE SENT ELECTRONICALLY

CONDUCTED BY 

 Urgent Care Aruba

NOORD MEDICAL CENTER, NOORD 63  
+297 5860448 / +297 5975549  
INFO@URGENTCARE.AW  
WWW.URGENTCARE.AW



# Fauci: Vaccinations are ramping up in a 'glimmer of hope'

By **GARY D. ROBERTSON**  
Associated Press

The U.S. ramped up COVID-19 vaccinations in the past few days after a slower-than-expected start, bringing the number of shots dispensed to about 4 million, government health officials said Sunday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, also said on ABC's "This Week" that President-elect Joe Biden's pledge to administer 100 million shots of the vaccine within his first 100 days in office is achievable.

And he rejected President Donald Trump's false claim on Twitter that coronavirus deaths and cases in the U.S. have been greatly exaggerated.

"All you need to do ... is go into the trenches, go into the hospitals, go into the intensive care units and see what is happening. Those are real numbers, real people and real deaths," Fauci said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The U.S. death toll has climbed past 350,000, the most of any country, ac-



A woman receives a coronavirus vaccine from medical staff at a COVID-19 vaccination center in Ramat Gan, Israel, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

According to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, while more than 20 million people nationwide have been infected. States have reported record numbers of cases over the past few days, and funeral homes in Southern California are being inundated with bodies. Los Angeles Mayor Eric

Garcetti said the pandemic is getting worse in his city as the virus spreads rapidly within households and people let their guard down with news of a vaccine's arrival. "This is a virus that preys off of our weakness, preys off of our exhaustion," he said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Experts believe that the real numbers of U.S. deaths and infections are much higher and that many cases were overlooked, in part because of insufficient testing. Fauci said he has seen "some little glimmer of hope" after 1.5 million doses were administered in the previous 72 hours, or an average of about 500,000 per day, a marked increase in vaccinations. He said that brings the total to about 4 million.

He acknowledged the U.S. fell short of its goal of having 20 million doses shipped and distributed by the end of December.

"There have been a couple of glitches. That's understandable," Fauci said. "We are not where we want to be, there's no doubt about that."

But he expressed optimism that the momentum will pick up by mid-January and that ultimately the U.S. will be vaccinating 1 million people a day. Biden's "goal of vaccinating 100 million people in the first 100 days is a realistic goal," Fauci said.

Dr. Moncef Slaoui, the chief science adviser to Operation Warp Speed, the government's vaccine development and distribution effort, told CBS that 17.5 million doses have been shipped. About 13 million of those have been dis-

tributed to clinics, hospitals and other places where they will be administered, according to Fauci.

The 20 million-dose goal hasn't been reached in part because local health departments and medical facilities had to stay focused on testing to handle a surge in cases, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said. And the holiday season meant health workers were taking time off, he said.

"I don't want anyone to think I'm being Pollyannish here. There's what we delivered, and we hope that those will be translated into vaccinations. That has not occurred to the way that we would like," Adams said on CNN's "State of the Union."

On Sunday morning, Trump falsely tweeted that the outbreak has been "far exaggerated" because of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "ridiculous" methodology. He complained, too, that Fauci has been credited by the news media with doing "an incredible job" when Fauci "works for me and the Trump Administration, and I am in no way given any credit for my work."

Fauci and others are warning that an additional surge is likely because of holiday gatherings and the cold weather keeping people indoors.

"It could and likely will get worse in the next couple of weeks, or at least maintain this very terribly high level of infections and deaths that we're seeing," Fauci said.

Arizona on Sunday reported a one-day record of more than 17,200 new cases, eclipsing the previous mark of about 12,000 set in early December. Health officials said the jump appears to reflect infections from Christmas gatherings but was also probably inflated by a reporting lag over New Year's weekend. North Carolina and Texas reported record numbers of people in the hospital with COVID-19 — nearly 3,600 and over 12,500, respectively. □

**HARBOUR HOUSE**  
Aruba

**The New Downtown Living**  
**Get your Own Ocean Front Condo**

**Over 70% Already Sold**

(+297) 594 6395  
Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba  
sales@harbourhousearuba.com

www.harbourhousearuba.com

# GOP plans to upend Biden win for Trump rips party apart

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The extraordinary effort to overturn the presidential election is ripping the Republican Party apart as GOP lawmakers orchestrating the challenges to Joe Biden's victory faced intense blowback Sunday from others in the party warning they are undermining Americans' faith in democracy.

President Donald Trump has enlisted support from a dozen Republican senators and up to 100 House Republicans to challenge the Electoral College vote when Congress convenes in a joint session to confirm President-elect Joe Biden's 306-232 win.

With Biden set to be inaugurated Jan. 20, the outgoing president is intensifying efforts to prevent the traditional transfer of power. Trump can be heard in an audio recording pressuring Georgia's election officials to "find" enough votes to flip Biden's win to him. Allies are pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to ensure Trump's victory in presiding over the congressional session. Trump is whipping up crowds for a rally in Washington.

But without evidence of voter fraud or other problems, leading Republicans across the nation are joining Democrats in saying there is no reason for the federal government to intervene in what state officials have certified were free and fair elections. Attorney General William Barr, who was appointed by Trump, said before leaving office that there was no evidence of fraud that would change the election outcome.

"The 2020 election is over," said a statement Sunday from a bipartisan group of 10 senators, including Republicans Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Mitt Romney of Utah.

"At this point, further attempts to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the 2020

Presidential election are contrary to the clearly expressed will of the American people and only serve

not plan to join the effort. "I don't think either of the two efforts has any chance for success," said Missouri's

The group formed with Cruz, which presented no new evidence of election problems, includes Sens.

ate to use the authority they have under the law to raise objections," Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, said in a statement Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has warned Republicans off such challenges but said little when asked about it as at the Capitol as the Senate opened Sunday.

"We'll be dealing with all of that on Wednesday," he said.

Congress have been loathe to interfere in the state-run election systems, a longstanding protocol. States choose their own election officials and draft their election laws. During the coronavirus pandemic many states adapted by allowing mail voting to ease health risks of voting in person. Those changes and others are now being challenged by Trump and his allies.

Trump, the first president to lose a reelection bid in almost 30 years, has attributed his defeat to widespread voter fraud, despite the consensus of nonpartisan election officials and even Trump's attorney general that there was none. Of the roughly 50 lawsuits the president and his allies have filed challenging election results, nearly all have been dismissed or dropped. He's also lost twice at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the latest challenge from Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, and a group of Arizona electors, who filed suit to try to force Pence to step outside mere ceremony and shape the outcome of the vote. The appellate court sided with the federal judge, a Trump appointee, who dismissed the suit. □

## Lawmakers join Trump in rejecting election results

A coalition of senators and senators-elect have pledged to reject the results when Congress meets to count the Electoral College votes and certify President-elect Joe Biden's win.



Ted Cruz  
R-Texas



Ron Johnson  
R-Wisconsin



James Lankford  
R-Okla.



Steve Daines  
R-Mont.



John Kennedy  
R-La.



Marsha Blackburn  
R-Tenn.



Mike Braun  
Indiana



Cynthia Lummis  
R-Wyo.



Roger Marshall  
R-Kansas



Bill Hagerty  
R-Tenn.



Tommy Tuberville  
R-Ala.



Josh Hawley  
R-Mo.

A coalition of senators and senators-elect have pledged to reject the results.

Associated Press

to undermine Americans' confidence in the already determined election results," the senators wrote. Republican Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland said, "The scheme by members of Congress to reject the certification of the presidential election makes a mockery of our system and who we are as Americans."

The unusual challenge to the presidential election, on a scale unseen since the aftermath of the Civil War, clouded the opening of the new Congress and is set to consume its first days. The House and Senate will meet Wednesday in a joint session to accept the Electoral College vote, a typically routine process that's now expected to be a prolonged fight.

Biden's transition spokesman, Mike Gwin, dismissed the effort as a "stunt" that won't change the fact that Biden will be sworn in Jan. 20.

The effort being led by Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, was hit with swift criticism.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Sunday his colleagues will have an opportunity to make their case, but they must produce evidence and facts. "They have a high bar to clear," he said.

Others simply said they do

other senator, Republican Roy Blunt.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a letter to colleagues that while there is "no doubt as to the outcome of the Biden-Harris presidency, our further success is to convince more of the American people to trust in our democratic system."

Hawley defended his actions in a lengthy email to colleagues, explaining that his Missouri constituents have been "loud and clear" with their belief that Biden's defeat of Trump was unfair. "It is my responsibility as a senator to raise their concerns," Hawley wrote late Saturday.

Hawley plans to object to the state tally from Pennsylvania. But that state's Republican senator, Pat Toomey, criticized the attack on Pennsylvania's election system and said the results that named Biden the winner are valid. Cruz's coalition of 11 Republican senators vows to reject the Electoral College tallies unless Congress launches a commission to immediately conduct an audit of the election results. They are zeroing in on the states where Trump has raised unfounded claims of voter fraud. Congress is unlikely to agree to their demand.

Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, James Lankford of Oklahoma, Steve Daines of Montana, John Kennedy of Louisiana, Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee and Mike Braun of Indiana. Also part of the effort are some of the new senators: Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, Roger Marshall of Kansas, Bill Hagerty of Tennessee and Tommy Tuberville of Alabama.

The convening of the joint session to count the Electoral College votes has faced objections before. In 2017, several House Democrats challenged Trump's win but Biden, who presided at the time as the vice president, swiftly dismissed them to assert Trump's victory. Rarely have the protests approached this level of intensity.

The moment is a defining one for the Republican Party in a post-Trump era. Both Hawley and Cruz are potential 2024 presidential contenders, cementing their alignment with Trump's base of supporters. Others are trying to forge a different path for the GOP.

Pence will be carefully watched as he presides over what is expected to be a prolonged showdown, depending on how many challenges are mounted. The vice president "welcomes the efforts of members of the House and Sen-



# Sheriff: Pastor dead, 2 hurt in shooting at Texas church

**WINONA, Texas (AP)** — A pastor was killed and two other people were injured in a shooting at an East Texas church Sunday after the pastor confronted a man who had hidden from police in the church overnight, a local sheriff said.

Authorities had been using dogs and drones to search for the man late Saturday in woods near Winona following a car chase, and the pastor of the nearby Starrville Methodist Church discovered him hiding in a church bathroom Sunday morning, Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith said at a news conference.

Smith said he did not know why the man was initially being pursued but that the license plates on his vehicle were "fictitious."

The pastor drew a gun and ordered the man to stop, Smith said, but the man grabbed the weapon and began shooting with it. The pastor was killed, a second person was injured by gunfire and another was hurt in a fall. The man then stole the pastor's vehicle and fled east before being arrested by deputies in nearby Harrison County, Smith said. He said the man was hospitalized Sunday after-



The Smith County Sheriff's Office investigates a fatal shooting incident at the Starrville Methodist Church in Winona, Texas, on Sunday morning, Jan. 3, 2021.

noon with gunshot wounds to his hand, but that it's unclear when he was shot. Smith declined to identify the pastor, the other people injured or the suspect. The sheriff said the shooting suspect will likely face a capital murder charge. The shooting was reported around 9:20 a.m., and there were no services going on at that time, said

Sgt. Larry Christian, of the sheriff's office. Smith said the pastor, his wife and two other people were in the church at the time. The man appears to have taken shelter in the church out of convenience and there's nothing to indicate the shooting was motivated by religious animus, the sheriff said. "This is not a church-re-

lated, religion-related offense," said Smith. Gov. Greg Abbott sent his condolences. "Our hearts are with the victims and the families of those killed or injured in this terrible tragedy," he said in a statement. It's unclear exactly when the man entered the church in Starrville, near Winona, about 100 miles (160

kilometers) east of Dallas. Representatives of Starrville Methodist could not be immediately reached for comment. Starrville Methodist was built in 1853, according to the Texas State Historical Association. The shooting came a little more than a year after a gunman opened fire at a church near Fort Worth, killing two people before he was fatally shot by a congregant. Texas officials hailed the congregant's quick action, saying it prevented further killing and showed the effectiveness of the state's permissive gun laws, including a 2019 measure that affirmed the right of licensed handgun holders to carry a weapon in places of worship.

That law was passed in response to the 2017 massacre at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, where a man fatally shot more than two dozen people at a Sunday service before taking his own life. Since then, a cottage industry has sprung up in Texas and other states to train and arm civilians to protect their churches using the techniques and equipment of law enforcement. □

Associated Press

# McConnell, Pelosi homes vandalized after \$2,000 relief fails



A neighbor looks at the spray paint on the front of the home of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, r, Ky., which was vandalized overnight in Louisville, Ky., Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021.

Associated Press

By **TIMOTHY D. EASLEY and TRAVIS LOLLER**

Associated Press

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)** — Vandals lashed out at the leaders of the U.S. House and Senate over the holiday weekend, blighting their

homes with graffiti and in one case a pig's head as Congress failed to approve an increase in the amount of money being sent to individuals to help cope with the coronavirus pandemic. Spray paint on Senate Ma-

jority Leader Mitch McConnell's door in Kentucky on Saturday read, "WERES MY MONEY." "MITCH KILLS THE POOR" was scrawled over a window. A profanity directed at the Republican senator was painted under the mailbox. At House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home in San Francisco, someone spray-painted graffiti and left a pig's head and fake blood on New Year's Day, police said. The vandalism was reported around 2 a.m. Friday, a police statement said, and a special investigations unit is trying to determine who did it. KGO-TV reported that graffiti found on the garage door of the Democratic leader's home included the phrases "\$2K," "Cancel rent!" and "We want

everything," apparently referencing Democratic lawmakers' failed efforts to increase the coronavirus relief checks from \$600 to \$2,000. McConnell released a statement on Saturday condemning the vandalism at his home in Louisville. "I've spent my career fighting for the First Amendment and defending peaceful protest," he stated. "I appreciate every Kentuckian who has engaged in the democratic process whether they agree with me or not. This is different. Vandalism and the politics of fear have no place in our society." McConnell said he and his wife are not intimidated by the vandalism. "We just hope our neighbors in Louisville aren't too inconvenienced by this radical

tantrum." Louisville police are investigating the incident at McConnell's home, which occurred around 5 a.m. Saturday. There currently are no suspects, police spokesperson Dwight Mitchell said in an email. On New Year's Day, Senate Republicans refused to allow debate over a bill to increase the amount of COVID-19 relief. The increase, supported by President Donald Trump, passed the Democratic-led House but was blocked by McConnell. The government has begun sending out the smaller payments to millions of Americans. The \$600 payment is going to individuals with incomes up to \$75,000. Congress approved the payment in late December. □

## Britons flying home to Spain caught in post-Brexit red tape

By ARITZ PARRA  
Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — Blame COVID-19 travel restrictions or Brexit but whatever the cause, some British citizens trying to return to their homes in several European countries this weekend have been barred from boarding flights.

Airlines refused documents that before Brexit had been valid proof of the Britons' status as residents in Spain, Italy and Germany, although Spanish authorities claimed that the issue had been resolved by mid-Sunday.

Their ordeal came amid heightened travel restrictions due to a coronavirus variant that has been blamed for faster contagion in the U.K. and highlights the bureaucratic complexities resulting from Britain's departure from the 27-nation European Union. Both Spanish and British authorities said Sunday that the green-colored certificate of EU citizenship with a foreign national identification number issued by Spain is still valid for British citizens residing in Spain under the bilateral provisions that followed the U.K.'s withdrawal from the bloc on Dec. 31. But the travelers say British Airways and Iberia, which are part of the IAG group, have been refusing to let them board for the past two days.



British travelers returning to their homes in Spain wait to speak to airline staff after they were refused entry onto planes, at London's Heathrow airport on Saturday Jan. 2, 2021.

Associated Press

Iberia said in a statement late Sunday that a communication from Spain's border police on Jan. 1 had created "some confusion" and that it was later clarified. British Airways didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Around 300,000 British citizens are registered as permanent residents in Spain, although before Brexit, many more had been living full or part-time in the country without officially registering.

Patricia Moody, a 69-year-old retiree who has called the southern Spanish town of Zurgena home for nearly

four years, was among a group of at least nine people unable to board a Madrid-bound BA/Iberia flight from London's Heathrow Airport on Saturday.

Moody said she and her husband, who she says needs to see his doctor back in Spain, have spent 1,900 pounds (\$2,600) on getting tested for the virus, traveling to the airport and booking new tickets after they were refused boarding. Their second attempt was also futile.

"Throughout all the months of negotiating Brexit, we were always assured that nothing would change for

us," she said. Referring to the airlines and authorities in both countries, she added: "It's horrendous and we are suffering because of their incompetence."

Following the discovery of the coronavirus variant in the U.K., many European nations have banned all travel from the British isles except for their own nationals and U.K. citizens with residency rights.

Travelers to Pisa, Italy, and Berlin have also reported similar hurdles in boarding planes operated by Ryanair and Lufthansa despite carrying documents that had been accepted

by the Italian and German governments, respectively. Matt Bristow, a spokesman for the British in Germany association of residents in that country, said: "This appears to be a case of U.K. airport staff not knowing what documents to accept or applying the rules more stringently than the German border police would."

Spain has been rolling out a new system to register permanent foreign residents called TIE but it's suffering a backlog due to the high number of requests. Authorities told AP that proof of application for the TIE and the "green certificate" for EU citizens were still valid to travel for British residents under the new health restrictions in place until Jan. 19.

"This should not be happening," said the U.K. embassy in Spain said in a Facebook post.

"The Spanish authorities have today re-confirmed that the green residency document will be accepted for travel to return to Spain, as stated in our travel advice."

But Sam Dakin, a 32-year-old English-language teacher based in Barcelona for the last four years, and his partner, who has been in the Spanish city for 8 years, said they needed more assurances before they could rebook flights. □

## Israeli prosecutors spell out allegations against Netanyahu

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli prosecutors on Sunday released an amended indictment spelling out detailed charges against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a corruption case in which he is accused of trading favors with a powerful media mogul. Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three corruption cases. One of them alleges that Netanyahu promoted regulations worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the owner of the Bezeq telecom

company in exchange for positive coverage on its popular Walla news site. In response to a request from Netanyahu's lawyers for more details, Israeli prosecutors released a letter Sunday alleging there had been 315 incidents of Walla being requested to make its coverage more favorable for Netanyahu and his family. They said there were indications that Netanyahu was personally involved in 150 of those incidents. It said the requests included giving more time or prominence to positive articles about

Netanyahu and his family, changing headlines and lowering or even removing unfavorable stories. It also included alleged requests for negative coverage of Netanyahu's rivals.

The document listed all 315 suspected incidents, which allegedly included numerous requests to publish flattering articles and photos of Netanyahu's wife Sara, to conceal reports of embarrassing expenditures and personal information about the Netanyahu family and attempts to embarrass his rivals. It quoted Bezeq's



In this Dec. 22, 2020 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivers a statement at the Israeli Knesset, or Parliament, in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

controlling shareholder at the time, Shaul Elovitch, as expressing concerns that Netanyahu would not ap-

prove lucrative business deals for the company if negative articles were published. □

# Iraq says it has dismantled mine on tanker in Persian Gulf

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iraq's military on Saturday said explosives experts with its naval forces successfully dismantled a mine that was discovered stuck to an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf two days earlier.

The statement said Iraqi authorities have opened an investigation into the incident. No group has claimed responsibility for placing the mine.

The announcement came a day after Iraq confirmed reports by private security firms that a mine had been discovered attached to the side of a tanker rented from Iraq's Oil Marketing Company, known as SOMO, as it was refueling another vessel. It said that Iraqi teams were working to dismantle the mine.

Iraq has not provided further details, but the two private security firms said the discovery was likely a lim-



An aerial photo shows oil tankers load crude oil at Iraq's Al-Basra Offshore Terminal in Basra, Iraq, Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020.

pet mine on the MT Pola, a Liberian-flagged tanker.

A limpet mine is a type of naval mine that attaches to the side of a ship, usually by a diver-member of special forces. It later explodes, and can significantly dam-

age a vessel.

The discovery came amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. in the final days of President Donald Trump's administration. Already, America has conducted B-52 bomber

flyovers and sent a nuclear submarine into the Persian Gulf over what Trump officials describe as the possibility of an Iranian attack on the one-year anniversary of the U.S. drone strike near Baghdad that killed

Associated Press

a top Iranian general, Qassem Soleimani, and top Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Iraq is marking the anniversary with a series of events this week, including a ceremony at Baghdad's airport Saturday night, where the strike that killed the two men occurred.

Thousands of mourners joined a mock funeral procession on the highway leading to the airport, which was blocked with cars Saturday evening.

Posters of the dead men adorned both sides of the road, which was lined with tents that served food and drinks for those who walked the highway. The scene of the bombing was turned into a shrine-like area sealed off by red ropes, with a photo of Soleimani and al-Muhandis in the middle, as mourners lit candles. □



Migrants from Eritrea, Egypt, Syria and Sudan, are assisted by aid workers of the Spanish NGO Open Arms, after fleeing Libya on board a precarious wooden boat in the Mediterranean sea, about 110 miles north of Libya, on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021.

Associated Press

## Spanish-flagged boat rescues 265 migrants in Mediterranean

**ROME (AP)** — A Spanish-flagged humanitarian ship on Sunday was seeking a port of safety for 265 migrants its crew rescued from the Mediterranean Sea in the last few days.

The Open Arms charity tweeted that its vessel on Saturday had safely brought aboard 96 migrants who had been adrift in a wooden boat with without life vests in international waters. It said the passengers, most of them from Eritrea, included two women and 17 minors and were suffering from hypothermia.

In a separate operation

two days before that rescue, Open Arms took aboard 169 migrants, who had departed Libyan shores, where many human traffickers are based. The traffickers launch vessels, many of them flimsy rubber dinghies or rickety fishing boats, crowded with migrants who hope to reach European shores to seek asylum. Some are fleeing conflict or persecution, but many of the hundreds of thousands of migrants who have been rescued at sea in recent years are fleeing poverty and thus are denied asylum by European Union countries. □

## IS gunmen kill 11 minority Shiite coal miners in SW Pakistan



People from the Shiite Hazara community gather around the bodies of coal mine workers who were killed by unknown gunmen near the Machh coal field, in Quetta, Pakistan, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

By **ABDUL SATTAR**  
Associated Press

**QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)** — Gunmen opened fire on a group of minority Shiite Hazara coal miners after abducting them, killing 11 in southwestern Baluchistan province early Sunday, a Pakistani official said.

The Islamic State group later claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on its website. The Sunni militant group has repeatedly targeted Pakistan's

minority Shiites in recent years. Moazzam Ali Jatoi, an official with the Levies Force, which serves as police and paramilitary in the area, said the attackers identified the miners as being from the Shiite Hazara community and took them to up into nearby mountains for execution, leaving others unharmed. He said six of the miners died at the scene, and five who were critically wounded died on the way to a hospital.

Police video of the bodies revealed the miners were blindfolded and had their hands tied behind their backs before being shot. The attack took place near the Machh coal field, about 48 kilometers (30 miles) east of the provincial capital Quetta.

News of the killings quickly spread among the Hazara community and members took to the streets in Quetta and surrounding areas to protest, blocking highways with burning tires and tree trunks. Officials closed the affected roads to traffic.

The violence was largely condemned across the country, with Prime Minister Imran Khan saying the perpetrators would be taken to task and the affected families would be cared for.

Shiite cleric Nasir Abbas said protests over the incident would be organized nationwide. Political and religious leaders from different segments of the population also expressed their grief and sorrow over the killings. □

## 3rd body found after landslide in Norway; 7 still missing

By JARI TANNER

Associated Press

**HELSINKI (AP)** — Rescue teams searching for survivors four days after a landslide carried away homes in a Norwegian village found no signs of life Saturday amid the ruined buildings and debris.

Three bodies have been recovered but searchers are still looking for seven more people believed to be missing. The landslide in the village of Ask is the worst in modern Norwegian history and has shocked citizens in the Nordic nation.

Search teams patrolled with dogs as helicopters and drones with heat-detecting cameras flew amid harsh winter conditions over the ravaged hillside in Ask, a village of 5,000 people 25 kilometers (16 miles) northeast of Oslo.

Norwegian police pledged not to scale down the search even though a rescue team from neighboring Sweden has already returned home.

Local police chief Ida Melbo Oeystese said it may still be possible to find survivors in air pockets inside the destroyed buildings.

"Medically, you can survive for several days if you have air," she told reporters at a



Rescue crews work in the area at Ask in Gjerdrum, Saturday Jan. 2, 2021, after a massive landslide smashed into a residential area near the Norwegian capital on Wednesday.

Associated Press

news conference.

By late Saturday, a second and third body had been found after a first one was discovered on Friday. Only a Dalmatian dog has been rescued alive from the ruins so far.

King Harald V, Queen Sonja and Crown Prince Haakon plan to visit the disaster area on Sunday to pay their respects to the victims and to meet with residents and rescue workers. The 83-year-old monarch said

in his New Year's speech that the royal family had been deeply moved by the tragedy.

Norwegian police have published the names and birth years of the 10 people initially reported missing, including a 2-year-old child. Officials haven't yet identified the three recovered bodies.

The landslide early Wednesday cut across a road through Ask, leaving a deep, crater-like ravine.

Photos and videos showed buildings hanging on the edge of the ravine, which grew to be 700 meters (2,300 feet) long and 300 meters (1,000 feet) wide. At least nine buildings with over 30 apartments were destroyed.

The rescue operation is being hampered by the limited number of daylight hours in Norway at this time of year and fears of further erosion. The ground is fragile at the site and unable

to hold the weight of rescue equipment, including a heavy vehicle from the Norwegian military.

Over 1,000 people have been evacuated, and officials said up to 1,500 people may be moved from the area amid fears of further landslides.

The exact cause of the accident is not yet known but the Gjerdrum municipality, where Ask is located, is known for having a lot of quick clay, a material that can change from solid to liquid form. Experts said the substance of the clay combined with excessive precipitation and the damp weather typical for Norway at this time of year may have contributed to the landslide.

Norwegian authorities in 2005 warned people not to construct residential buildings in the area, but houses were eventually built there later in the decade.

Spokeswoman Toril Hofshagen from the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate called the landslide unique in its destruction.

"Not since 1893 has there been a quick clay landslide of this dimension in Norway," Hofshagen told the media on Saturday. □

## Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan resume talks over disputed dam

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan resumed their years-long negotiations Sunday over the controversial dam Ethiopia is building on the Blue Nile, officials said.

The resumption came six weeks after Khartoum boycotted talks in November, urging the African Union to play a greater role in reaching a deal over the disputed Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

The negotiations have centered on the filling and operation of the giant dam. Key questions remain about how much water Ethiopia will release downstream if a multi-year drought occurs and how the three countries will resolve any future disputes. Ethiopia has rejected binding arbitration

at the final stage of the project.

The foreign and irrigation ministers of the three Nile Valley countries met online Sunday, said Ahmed Hafez, the spokesman of Egypt's Foreign Ministry.

Sudan also confirmed the meeting.

Ethiopia's Water and Energy Minister Seleshi Bekele said earlier the meeting was called by South Africa, the current head of the African Union, and that U.S. observers and AU experts would attend.

Sudan's Irrigation Ministry said the three countries would hold separate talks with the AU experts and observers before a three-party meeting on Jan. 10. In November, Sudan did not attend a round of talks

called by South Africa, arguing that the current approach to reaching a tripartite agreement on the filling and operation of Ethiopia's dam had not yielded results.

Sudanese Irrigation Minister Yasser Abbas said at the time that the AU should do more to "facilitate the negotiation and bridge the gap between the three parties."

Africa's largest hydroelectric dam has caused severe tensions between the three nations.

Egypt has called it an existential threat and worries that it will reduce the country's share of Nile waters. The Arab's world most populous country relies almost entirely on the Nile to supply water for agriculture



**BANDA** In this June 28, 2013 file photo, construction work takes place, at the site of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam near Assosa, Ethiopia.

Associated Press

and its more than 100 million people. About 85% of the river's flow originates from Ethiopia.

Ethiopia says the \$4.6 billion dam will be an engine of development that will

pull millions of people out of poverty. Sudan, in the middle, worries about the effects on its own dams, although it stands to benefit from access to cheap electricity. □



**playa linda**  
beach resort

**YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN**

RESORT OWNERSHIP AT  
ARUBA FINEST TIMESHARE RESORT

Playa Linda Sales Office: Mon-Fri (8am-4pm)  
sales@playalinda.com or call (+297)-586-1000  
Toll free number: 1-888-281-4544



**NOORD** — Tuscany Residence Aruba is found in one of the most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach, and best of all it is within walking distance of the finest white beaches and clear blue ocean. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level.

180 exclusive properties will be built suitable for everyone's wishes. The buildings varies greatly in layout and offers amazing views. You can choose from 2 or 3-story villas with a private pool and a rooftop terrace, condominiums, townhouses. Tuscany Residence Aruba enjoys an abundance of luxury amenities and services. Soon a new concept consisting of 18, 1 and 2-story water villas. Everything is aimed at providing homeowners and holiday makers of Tuscany Residence Aruba with a relaxing stay.

**Dutch design**

Tuscany Residence Aruba is a residence that is currently being built and will develop in the coming years into a luxury residential resort with various types of homes and many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true. "We just completed the community pool and the first villa. Eight townhouses are ready and three are still available. There is lots to see, you are invited. Our quality will convince you."

**We take care of it all**

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. Aside of the town houses and villa you can see the community pool now, providing you with the idea of style and quality of our residence." He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up,

**Welcome to Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort**

worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.



**Townhouses**

3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms  
Price starting U.S. \$ 347,000, community fee U.S. \$ 200/month  
Still 3 Available.



**Luxury Villas**

3 and 4 bedrooms, 3.5 and 4.5 bathrooms, Private Pool  
Price starting U.S. \$ 788,000, community fee U.S. \$ 275/mth  
Still 2 Available.



**Coming Soon: 18 Luxury Water Villas**

The Concept: 18- 2 and 3 bedroom villas around 1 communal pool with covered terrace and garden at the pool side. Soon we will start the presale and if you are interested please contact us!

**Reasons to buy**

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
- Residential Park with all amenities
- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!☐



**Tuscany Residence Aruba**  
Salina Cerca 131, Noord, Aruba  
info@tuscanyresidencearuba.com  
(+297) 280 4664  
(+297) 733 2424



**WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACCEPT FLORINS.**

# LOW LIMITS LOCALS LOVE!

With limits this low, now is the time to join the action at our table games. All newcomers welcome!

**\$2 Blackjack | 25¢ Roulette**

**\$1 Minimum Bet at Craps**

**\$1 Minimum Bet at Mississippi Stud**

**\$2 Minimum Bet at 3-Card Poker**

Learn how to play with our friendly dealers. Table games open at Noon.

## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

**Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins**

**Hungry Piranha | Aruba Aloe**

**Shalom Body & Soul Spa**

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 11pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47  
583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com



Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

## Memories of a loyal Aruba visitor

ORANJESTAD — You are back or you will be back, hopefully soon. We are really happy if you could share the love for this island with us or send us a message from home.

### What do you do?

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory or greetings from home. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

Today we share with you a message from **Thea Goodman, New York City:**

"I was in Aruba with my husband Nov.29-Dec.12, 2020 amidst the pandemic rising in New York City. I had fears of flying, wore three masks and a shield but felt like I did after 9/11 that I needed to be in Aruba, my special island that I found 40 years ago in order to feel safe in this world. I own at Divi Phoenix and felt safe in the Aruba airport, in the resort, on the quiet beach and secure that my safety was assured.

Thank you Aruba for giving me a sense of safety during these challenging times." □





**PALM BEACH** —A true once-in-a-lifetime experience is coming up. The stage: an Aruban cunucu house creating a magical ambiance. The play: *The Secret Garden*; a 6-course culinary voyage by a Michelin-trained chef from Belgium, Griet Vanbrabant. The content: 100% local products from local farmers tuned into the most amazing dishes; leaving you in an enchanted state and giving you a memory that will last a lifetime. Be sure to reserve this opportunity before others do. This production is presented to you by Papillon Restaurant.

Sometimes combining the best of the best is a matter of all things falling into place. Every Wednesday beginning the 6th of January, 2021, from 7p.m. to 10p.m. you are welcomed to enter a world where food is a passion. Papillon Restaurant presents their guest chef, Vanbrabant - who will be on the island for a limited time period - and with *The Secret Garden* menu being a fresh concept on the island, we're sure you will fall completely in love with this.

**A bit about Griet**

Vanbrabant is a passionate chef with over 15 years of experience in fine dining menu development, culinary staff management, food preparation and creative recipe de-

**Papillon Restaurant presents:  
Chef's Garden, the butterfly effect of  
magnificent local food**

sign. She is educated in classic French Cuisine and Modern Gastronomy teachings throughout her international career in Michelin star and the World's 50 Best restaurants such as El Bulli and Comerc 24 in Barcelona, Pujol in Mexico City, Rockpool in Australia. Let her entice you with her succulent, Aruban recipes like they've never tasted before.

The menu is carefully done with local products, fresh and perfectly matched with a selection of wines



by local sommeliers. Diet options are available; please inform them when you make your reservation.

**The Secret Garden & Papillon**

This is an in-home dining experience where you will feel you are part of an exclusive setting. Private culinary events are the owner's specialty and their lush, tropical garden is also inviting for you to relax and indulge in hours of authentic culinarian delights, a heaven to foodies. For more than a decade, Papillon restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. They know how to thrill and in collaboration with *The Secret Garden* we can only expect phenomenal.



For reservations:  
Call: +297 586 5400  
WhatsApp: +297 7320832  
Email: info@papillonaruba.com



**Azure**  
BEACH RESIDENCES  
ARUBA

**Beachfront Condos**  
Move - In Ready

Visit our sales office at Azure Beach Residences.  
Exclusive Oceanfront residences with 180° views of the Caribbean  
and just a few steps from Eagle Beach.

[www.azure-aruba.com](http://www.azure-aruba.com) +297-5946395

# Cuts likely as Fiat Chrysler-PSA tie-up nears approval

By COLLEEN BARRY and TOM KRISHER  
AP Business Writers

**MILAN (AP)** — While running Nissan's North American operations from 2009 to 2011, Carlos Tavares had a reputation for closely watching costs with little tolerance for vehicles or ventures that didn't make money.

Experts say that means Tavares, currently the head of PSA Group, is likely to follow that blueprint when he becomes leader of a merged PSA and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. The low-performing Chrysler brand might get the axe as could slow-selling cars, SUVs or trucks that lack potential.

Already the companies are talking about consolidating vehicle platforms — the underpinnings and powertrains — to save billions in engineering and manufacturing costs.

That could mean job losses in Italy, Germany and Michigan as PSA Peugeot technology is integrated into North American and Italian vehicles.

"You can't be cost efficient if you keep the entire scale of both companies," said Karl Brauer, executive analyst for the iSeeCars.com auto website. "We've seen this show before, and we're going to see it again where they economize these platforms across continents, across multiple markets."



In this Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 file photo, CEO of PSA Groupe Carlos Tavares arrives for the presentation of the company's 2019 full year results in Rueil-Malmaison, west of Paris.

Shareholders of both companies are to meet Monday to vote on the merger to form the world's fourth-largest automaker, to be called Stellantis. The deal received EU regulatory approval just before Christmas.

Tavares, who for years has wanted to sell PSA vehicles in the U.S., won't take full control of the merged companies until the end of January at the earliest.

He likely will target Europe for consolidation first, because that's where Fiat vehicles overlap extensively with PSA's, said IHS Markit Principal Auto Analyst

Stephanie Brinley. Europe has been a money-loser for FCA, and factories in Italy are operating way below capacity — a concern for unions, given Fiat's role as the largest private sector employer in the country.

"We are at a crossroads," said Michele De Palma of the FIOM CGIL metalworkers' union. "Either there is a relaunch, or there is a slow agonizing closure of industry, in particular the auto industry, in Italy."

Italy's hopes lie with the luxury Maserati and sporty Alfa Romeo brands, but De Palma said investments are needed to bring hybrid

and electric technology up to speed. Fiat's Italian capacity stands at 1.5 million vehicles, but only a few hundred thousand are being produced each year. Most factories were on rolling short-term layoffs due to lack of demand, even before the pandemic.

The merger is likely to also hit white collar workers, as Tavares is unlikely to keep engineering centers in Paris, Turin and Rodelsheim, Germany, where the Opel brand he acquired in 2017 is located, according to analysts.

FCA's North American operations, led by the popu-

lar Jeep brand and Ram pickup, are hugely profitable and likely will be left untouched for a while, Brinley said.

Tavares just three years ago stated his desire to sell PSA vehicles in the U.S. within a decade. He said any global automaker has to sell in the U.S. market.

In December the companies announced that Fiat Chrysler CEO Mike Manley would run Stellantis' operations in the Americas.

Larger Jeep and Ram trucks and SUVs are unique to the U.S. and generally don't sell well in Europe, so Brinley expects those to be designed by Fiat Chrysler in Auburn Hills, Michigan, north of Detroit. Eventually some cars and some smaller SUVs, though, will move to PSA underpinnings, she said.

PSA has a wider array of fuel-efficient smaller engines, and Fiat Chrysler will need those to meet government fuel mileage and pollution requirements worldwide. The PSA Group's goal is to offer its all models with electrified powertrains by 2025, an area where Fiat Chrysler also has lagged.

Analysts say the Chrysler brand could be in jeopardy in the U.S., where it has only two models, the aging 300 sedan and the Pacifica minivan. U.S. sales of the brand were off 19% through October. □

# China warns of retaliation for NYSE's delisting of companies

**BEIJING (AP)** — China said Saturday that it would take necessary countermeasures in response to the New York Stock Exchange's announcement that it would delist three major Chinese telecoms, in the latest flare-up of tensions between Beijing and Washington. The stock exchange said Thursday that it would delist China Telecom Corp. Ltd., China Mobile Ltd. and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd., with trading of the companies to be suspended sometime between Jan. 7 and Jan. 11.

The move stems from an executive order President

Donald Trump issued on Nov. 12 barring investment in publicly traded companies that the U.S. government says are owned or controlled by the Chinese military. "China opposes the Americans from abusing national security by listing Chinese companies into the so-called 'Communist China Military Companies' list and will take the necessary countermeasures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," a spokesperson for the Chinese Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry did not offer

details on what the measures might be.

Under Trump, the U.S. has stepped up economic sanctions and travel bans against Chinese companies, government officials and Communist Party members, especially recently in Trump's last few weeks in office.

In December, the U.S. announced plans to limit visas for members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members to one month, instead of 10 years. Chinese tech giant Huawei has been shut out of the U.S. market and the U.S. has lobbied other countries



People wearing face masks to protect against the spread of the coronavirus talk on their cellphones near a booth for Chinese telecommunications firm China Mobile at the PT Expo in Beijing on Oct. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

to follow suit, albeit with mixed results. □

# Nashville bombing spotlights vulnerable voice, data networks

By TALI ARBEL  
AP Technology Writer

The Christmas Day bombing in downtown Nashville led to phone and data service outages and disruptions over hundreds of miles in the southern U.S., raising new concerns about the vulnerability of U.S. communications.

The blast seriously damaged a key AT&T network facility, an important hub that provides local wireless, internet and video service and connects to regional networks. Backup generators went down, which took service out hours after the blast. A fire broke out and forced an evacuation. The building flooded, with more than three feet of water later pumped out of the basement; AT&T said there was still water on the second floor as of Monday.

The immediate repercussions were surprisingly widespread. AT&T customers lost service — phones, internet or video — across large parts of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. There were 911 centers in the region that couldn't take calls; others didn't receive crucial data associated with callers, such as their locations. The Nashville police department's phones and internet failed. Stores went cash-only.

At some hospitals, electronic medical records, internet service or phones stopped working. The Nashville airport halted flights for about three hours on Christmas. Rival carrier T-Mobile also had service issues as far away as Atlanta, 250 miles away, because the com-



In this Dec. 29, 2020 file photo, debris remains on the sidewalk in front of buildings damaged in a Christmas Day explosion in Nashville, Tenn.

pany uses AT&T equipment for moving customer data from towers to the T-Mobile network.

"People didn't even realize their dependencies until it failed," said Doug Schmidt, a Vanderbilt University computer science professor. "I don't think anyone recognized the crucial role that particular building played" in the region's telecom infrastructure, he said. The explosion, which took place in the heart of the Nashville's historic downtown, killed the bomber, injured several people and damaged dozens of buildings. Federal officials are investigating the motive and haven't said whether the AT&T building was specifically targeted.

AT&T said 96% of its wireless network was restored Sunday. As of Monday evening, AT&T said "nearly all services" were back up. On Wednesday, it was "activating the last of the remaining wireline equipment."

AT&T said it sent temporary cell towers to help in affected areas and rerouted traffic to other facilities as it worked to restore power to the Nashville building. But not all traffic can be rerouted, spokesperson Jim Greer said, and there was physical equipment that had to be fixed in a building that

was part of an active crime scene, which complicated AT&T workers' access.

"We are all too dependent on phone, cell phone, TV and internet to have outages for any reason," Rep. Jim Cooper, the Democrat who represents Nashville in Congress, said in an emailed statement Wednesday. He said the U.S. "needs to harden our telecom facilities so we have greater redundancy and reliability" and called for congressional hearings on reducing telecom vulnerabilities.

The impact on emergency services may have raised the most serious flags. At one point, roughly a hundred 911 centers had service problems in Tennessee alone, said Brian Fontes, head of the National Emergency Number Association. A 911 call center should still be operational even if there is damage to a phone company's hub, said David Turetsky, a lecturer at the University at Albany and a former public safety official at the Federal Communications Commission. If multiple call centers were out of service for several days, "that is of concern," he said.

Cooper and experts like Fontes also gave AT&T credit for their work on re-instating services. "To be

able to get some services up and running within 24 to 48 hours of a catastrophic blast in this case is pretty amazing," Fontes said.

Local authorities turned to social media on Christmas Day, posting on Facebook and Twitter that 911 was down and trying to reassure residents by offering other numbers to call. A Facebook page for Morgan County 911 in northern Alabama said Saturday that Alabama 911 centers were up and running but advised AT&T customers with issues to try calling via internet, and to go to the local police or fire station for help if they couldn't get through.

The Nashville police department uses the FirstNet system built by AT&T, which the carrier boasts can provide "fast, highly reliable interoperable communications" in emergencies and that is meant to prioritize first responders when networks are stressed. But problems emerged around midday Friday, said spokesperson Kristin Mumford. The department had to turn to a backup provider, CenturyLink, for its landlines and internet at headquarters and precincts and obtained loaner cellphones and mobile hotspots from Verizon.

The transition to backups

was "actually rather seamless," Mumford said, although the public couldn't make calls to police precincts. She said the AT&T service started coming back Sunday and as of Wednesday morning, overall service with cellphones, internet and landlines was "about 90% up."

The Parthenon, a museum replica of the Parthenon in Athens located about three miles from the explosion, still didn't have a working phone four days after the blast. But its credit-card system came back online Tuesday, said John Holmes, an assistant director of Metro Parks, the museum's owner. During the weekend, the museum was cash-only, although it let in people without cash for free.

It's not as if the physical vulnerability of communications networks comes as a surprise. Natural disasters like hurricanes frequently wipe out service as the power goes out and wind, water or fire damage infrastructure. Recovery can take days, weeks or even longer. Hurricane Maria left Puerto Rico in a near communications blackout with destroyed telephone poles, cell towers and power lines. Six months later there were still areas without service. Software bugs and equipment failures have also caused widespread problems. A December 2018 CenturyLink outage lasted for more than a day and disrupted 911 calls in over two dozen states and affected as many as 22 million people. That included blocked calls for Verizon customers and busy signals for Comcast customers, which both used CenturyLink's network.

"Avoiding single points of failure is vital for any number of reasons, whether it has to do with physical damage, human error, hostile action or any of the above," Turetsky said. "We need our networks to be resilient regardless of earthquake, tornado, terrorist, cyber attacker or other threat." □



## Sand Logic

The famous Divi Divi tree is actually called Watapana. They all point SouthWest due to the trade winds.

The tree works just like a compass. So, when you're lost look for one they are pointing to the highrise hotels area.

# IRS says executors undervalued Prince's estate by 50%

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — The ongoing controversy over the money left behind by Prince when he died without a will is heating up again after Internal Revenue Service calculations showed that executors of the rock star's estate undervalued it by 50%, or



In this Oct. 14, 2010 file photo, musician Prince holds a news conference at The Apollo Theater announcing his "Welcome 2 America" tour in New York.

Associated Press

about \$80 million. The IRS determined that Prince's estate is worth \$163.2 million, overshadowing the \$82.3 million valuation submitted by Comerica Bank & Trust, the estate's administrator. The discrepancy primarily involves Prince's music pub-

lishing and recording interests, according to court documents.

Documents show the IRS believes that Prince's estate owes another \$32.4 million in federal taxes, roughly doubling the tax bill based on Comerica's valuation, the Star Tribune reported.

The IRS also has ordered a \$6.4 million "accuracy-related penalty" on Prince's estate, citing a "substantial" undervaluation of assets, documents show.

Prince's death of a fentanyl overdose on April 21, 2016, created one of the largest and most complicated probate court proceedings in Minnesota history. Estimates of his net worth have varied widely, from \$100 million to \$300 million. □

## Classifieds

### PRIVATE ISLAND TOURS

4 hours Tours \$130  
for 1 up to 4 person's A/C Bus  
Call Today T.U. Tours  
+297 7312727 or +297 7472727

213675

### Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

week 1/1408 (15k);  
week 2/1113 (16k);  
week 5/1315 (18k);  
week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);  
week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);  
week 8/1113; 8/1409  
(17k/wk.);  
week 9/1218 (15k);  
week 10/1207 (15k);  
weeks 11-15 also available!  
CDMOwner@gmail.com  
U.S. (860)992-3890

212588

### For Sale: Casa del Mar

Presidential unit at Casa Del Mar for week 1, room 1317. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen, dining room, pool and fitness center. Asking \$16,000. Call USA, 845-239-2918 or email garyhudak684@comcast.net

### For Sale: Casa Del Mar

Presidential unit at Casa Del Mar for week 2, room 1511. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen, dining room, pool and fitness center. Asking \$16,000. Call USA, 845-239-2918 or email garyhudak684@comcast.net.

### For Sale: Barcelo

All Inclusive.  
Prime week, studio deluxe unit. Sleeps 2. Cost of food and liquor package extra. Cost of ownership \$12,000. Call USA 845-239-2918 or email garyhudak684@comcast.net.

213673

### FOR RENT/SALE

#### PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

Week 1 Jan 2-9, 2021  
1Bedr. Pool, Beach **Oceanfront**  
Week 8 & 9 Feb 20-March 06  
2 Bedr. **Oceanfront** (rent)  
Week 31 & 32, July 31-Aug 14  
2 Bedr. Pool, **Ocean view**  
Call +941-343-1088 USA

213674

## SUDOKU

### Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9		8	4	5		
	2		9				4	
4		7				6		8
3			2	7		6		
5								1
	9		3	8				4
2		5				4		7
	8				1		2	
		4	7	6		3		

Difficulty Level ★ 1/04

Solution on Page 14

## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Eagle Tel. 587 9011

#### San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



facebook.com/arubatoday/

## ARUBA TODAY

### Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

### Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

### Editors

Richard Brooks

### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

### Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday

# Calamity? Anomaly? 2020 was a box office year like no other

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

When the sun sets on the 2020 film box office, it'll be difficult to look at the numbers as anything but disastrous.

After five consecutive years of North American revenues exceeding \$11 billion, this year they're expected to cap out at an almost 40-year low of around \$2.3 billion. That'll be down 80% from last year according to data firm Comscore. Globally, where markets have been able to recover more fully, ticket sales will likely end up somewhere between \$11 and \$12 billion. Last year, that total hit \$42.5 billion. But of course, 2020 is a year with a big asterisk.

"It's a year like no other," said Jim Orr, president of domestic theatrical distribution for Universal Pictures. "We've never seen this little business in this industry."

Outside of January and February, it's impossible to judge the year's box office by pre-pandemic standards. Box office, in aggregate, is fairly predictable in a normal year. But when the theaters shut down March 20, that "all went out the window," said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst with Comscore. "The unpredictability became the constant."

Most North American theaters weren't open for six months straight through the summer season, which typically accounts for around 40% of the year's profits. For the past two years, the summer movie season has netted over \$4.3 billion. This year it brought in \$176.5 million, much of that from drive-in theaters.

"The drive-in became the hero of the summer," Dergarabedian said.

When indoor theaters did start to reopen in late August and early September, it was at limited capacity and with limited product. Currently, about 35% of theaters are open in the U.S. and some of the biggest markets, including New York and Los Angeles, remain closed. Although there have been a steady

stream of new releases, the blockbuster tentpoles have been few and far between.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Martin Lawrence, right, and Will Smith in a scene from "Bad Boys for Life."

Associated Press

Some went to streaming services, others became premium digital rentals, but most simply retreated into 2021 and beyond.

Perhaps there is no more telling fact than that 2020 was the first time in over a decade without a Marvel movie.

The Walt Disney Co.'s superhero factory has for the past two years topped the year-end charts with "Avengers: Endgame" and "Black Panther," and has regularly had two or more films in the top 10.

Unsurprisingly, the 2020 top 10 is a little chaotic and comprised mostly of films from the first two months of the year. Sony's Will Smith sequel "Bad Boys for Life" has stayed in first place in North America since its January release with \$206.3 million. Globally it's in second place to the Chinese film "The Eight Hundred" — the first time that the top worldwide film originated outside of Hollywood. The only post-shutdown films to crack the top 10 are Christopher Nolan's "Tenet," in eighth place with \$57.2 million and the animated

family sequel "The Croods: A New Age," which was released at Thanksgiving and

ing private theater rentals, but attendance throughout the fall and winter re-

has earned \$30.8 million so far to put it in 10th place. And at least 15 films in the top 100 were retro releases, including "Hocus Pocus," "The Empire Strikes Back," and "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

"The silver lining for movie theaters is even though people had unlimited options at home, people still sought out the movie theater," Dergarabedian said. "People have a desire to go outside the home and be entertained. That desire hasn't changed but the ability to do that was profoundly limited."

It's even changed the way opening weekends, once a reliable indicator of a film's long-term prospects, are judged and it might remain that way for a while. "The instant gratification that we used to be able to deliver on Sunday mornings after opening on a Friday? It's probably not going to happen again for quite some time," Orr said.

Theaters have embraced enhanced safety protocols and experimented with different ways to get people back into seats, includ-

ing private theater rentals, but attendance throughout the fall and winter remained limited. "People go to movie theaters to escape. If you're going to a movie theater where you have to wear a mask and you have to sit apart and you have to be hyper conscious of your surroundings, that is not how the theatrical experience is supposed to work," said John Sloss, principal at the media advisory firm Cinetic.

"To judge this year at all in terms of theater attendance, I think is doing a disservice overall to what's really going on." Moviegoing in 2020 is the story of an industry that employs some 150,000 fighting to stay afloat until normalcy returns, which everyone expects will happen even if it's not in the near future. Small movie theater owners will get a bit of a lifeline from the pandemic relief package.

But effects on the businesses have been staggering and it may be a while before the full impact is known, although there have been some historic developments and compromises.

Some innovations have been well-received, like Universal's landmark agreement with various exhibitors to shorten the theatrical window from 90 days to as little as 17 days in some cases.

Others, like Warner Bros.' decision to release all of its 2021 films on HBO Max and in theaters simultaneously, have not.

It's no secret that streaming services, whether subscription or on demand, filled a huge gap for film fans looking for new content. While at-home options will continue to compete with theaters for consumer eyes and dollars, few believe that they are a death-knell for theaters. By and large, studios are not looking to abandon the theatrical model, even if some priorities have shifted to streaming.

"I do think there's a bright light at the end of the tunnel," Orr said. "As vaccinations continue to roll out, I am 100% convinced that people will come running back into theaters when it's possible in their area. The model is not going away." Disney CEO Bob Chapek noted at the company's recent investor day that they made \$13 billion at the box office in 2019.

"That's not something to sneeze at," Chapek said. This past weekend, "Wonder Woman 1984," which was available to stream on HBO Max for free, also collected \$16.7 million from 2,100 North American theaters.

That number would have been a disaster before. For the pandemic? It's a record. □

## SOLUTION SUDOKU

Difficulty Level: 1/04

6	1	4	7	6	2	3	8	5
7	8	3	5	4	1	9	2	6
2	6	5	8	3	9	4	1	7
6	9	2	3	1	8	7	5	4
5	7	8	4	9	6	2	3	1
3	4	1	2	5	7	8	6	9
4	5	7	1	2	3	6	9	8
8	2	6	9	7	5	1	4	3
1	3	9	6	8	4	5	7	2

©2021 Concept Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Puzzle on Page 13

## Vlhova edges Liensberger in slalom in Croatia; Shiffrin 4th

**ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)** — Shortly after winning the first women's World Cup slalom of 2021 on Sunday, Petra Vlhova knelt with her face down, torn between relief and disbelief. The Slovakian skier's win came five days after her four-year-long joint winning streak with Mikaela Shiffrin ended.

In tough conditions due to fog and rain, the overall leader from Slovakia beat Katharina Liensberger of Austria by five-hundredths of a second.

Shiffrin was 0.27 behind in fourth, forced to wait for her 100th career World Cup podium, a milestone reached by only four female skiers in the 54-year history of the sport.

Leading after the first run, Vlhova thought she had squandered her chances in a rough final run with several mistakes on the deteriorating course.

"During my run, I thought, 'OK, the race is done.' But I found something inside, I pushed more and more until the finish," she said.

"It's amazing and a really emotional victory."

At a night race in Semmering last Tuesday, Michelle Gisin became the first skier other than Vlhova or Shiffrin to win a World Cup slalom in 29 races since January 2017, when Frida Hansdotter triumphed in Flachau.

Vlhova and Gisin are 1-2 in both the slalom and the overall standings.

On Sunday, the Swiss skier was 0.22 behind in third as the top four from the first run remained unchanged. After Vlhova and Shiffrin dominated women's slalom racing in recent years, Liensberger and Gisin seem to have closed the gap.

Gisin became the first Swiss slalom winner in 19 years with her victory in Semmering, and Liensberger has been on the podium in all four slaloms this season.

"They are really fast," Vlhova said. "We are really close, I have to ski always to my limit because they push me a lot."

In Sunday's race, the gap between Shiffrin in fourth

and Erin Mielzynski in fifth was a massive 1.13 seconds. It was the Canadian's first top-five result since November 2015.

Shiffrin led the best showing by the U.S. ski team in a women's slalom in 14 years, as four American racers qualified for the decisive leg for the first time since 2007.

Paula Moltzan finished 14th, Katie Hensien 18th, and Nina O'Brien failed to finish her final run.

Defending overall champion Federica Brignone skipped the race in order to train for upcoming speed events in Austria.

Heavy rain on Saturday weakened the surface of the Crveni Spust course just outside Croatia's capital. Course workers added salt



Slovakia's Petra Vlhova celebrates as she arrives at the finish area of an alpine ski, women's World Cup Slalom, in Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

that hardened the top layer but also created a lot of bumps.

Even Croatian great Ivica Kostelic struggled on the course. The 2011 men's overall champion lost his balance and fell during a pre-race camera run.

The race took place five days after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit central Croatia. Race organizers said they would donate 10% of the prize money to a relief fund for people whose houses have been damaged or destroyed.

The Croatian ski federation matched that donation, raising the total amount to 350,000 Croatian kunas (50,000 euros; \$60,000).

The women's World Cup continues with speed races in St. Anton, Austria, next weekend. □

Everyday double & triple points

Totally sanitized table and chips.

### ORCHID CASINO

Located in the Riu Antillas (formerly the Westin)  
welcomes you to RESERVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TABLE  
for you and your party.

Orchid Casino

RESERVE your Private Table

Call 525 7777 ext.209  
to make a reservation.





## Browns end playoff drought, survive late Steelers rally

By **TOM WITHERS**  
AP Sports Writer

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — After nearly two decades of dysfunction, bad draft picks and coaching and front-office changes, the NFL's longest playoff drought is over.

The Cleveland Browns are back in the postseason, qualifying for the first time since 2002 on Sunday by surviving a late Pittsburgh rally for a 24-22 win over the Steelers, who rested quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and several other starters. The Browns (11-5) nearly blew a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter, but stopped Pittsburgh's 2-point conversion attempt and then recovered an onside kick with 1:22 left to hold on.

A week of COVID-19 disruptions concluded in celebration as the Browns ended what had been the NFL's longest postseason drought.

Their reward: Another game against the AFC North champion Steelers, in Pittsburgh next weekend. "We're in the dance," said first-year coach Kevin Stefanski. "But we've got a lot of work to do."

Nick Chubb had a touchdown run, Baker Mayfield threw a TD pass — and had several critical runs in the second half — and the Browns hung on as Mason Rudolph brought back the Steelers (12-4), who had the luxury of sitting their best players after clinching the division last week.

Instead of Roethlisberger, who is 23-2-1 in his career against the Browns, Steelers coach Mike Tomlin started Rudolph in the regular-season finale. Big Ben will be back for the playoffs.

Rudolph's 2-yard TD pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster with 1:23 left pulled the Steelers within 24-22. But

Rudolph badly overthrew rookie Chase Claypool on the 2-point attempt, and

The team's last playoff visit was 197 losses, 14 double-digit-loss seasons and sev-

er floated a pass across the field that was intercepted by reserve cornerback M.J.

solace in playing well.

"A backup quarterback in this league, you don't get many opportunities," he said. "I didn't care who it was. ... Obviously you want to win the ballgame."

### **GARRETT-RUDOLPH**

Garrett and Rudolph barely crossed paths — until after the game.

It was their first meeting in Cleveland since Garrett tore off Rudolph's helmet and hit him with it, one of the ugliest on-field incidents in recent NFL history that led to a suspension for Garrett.

"I just told him, 'Good game, and see you all in a week,'" Garrett said.

"I told him good luck," Rudolph said. "A lot of respect for him."

### **NICK OF TIME**

Chubb went over 1,000 yards for the second straight season in style. His 47-yard TD pushed the Pro Bowler into quadruple digits despite him missing four games with a sprained right knee.

### **INJURIES**

Steelers: None reported. Browns: DE Olivier Vernon suffered an ankle injury in the fourth quarter. Vernon didn't put any weight on his leg while being assisted to the medical tent.

He was carted to the locker room. ... Rookie WR/PR Donovan Peoples-Jones suffered a concussion late in the first half while jumping to make a catch and getting drilled by safety Sean Davis.

### **UP NEXT**

Browns: Back to Pittsburgh, where they lost 38-7 in October. Cleveland's previous playoff game was also in Pittsburgh, a heartbreaking 36-33 loss in '02.

Steelers: Will be back at full strength for their first playoff appearance since the 2017 season. □



**Cleveland Browns running back Nick Chubb (24) breaks a tackle from Pittsburgh Steelers free safety Minkah Fitzpatrick (39) for a 47-yard touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, in Cleveland.**

Associated Press

Browns tight end Stephen Carlson then fell on the ensuing kick under a pile of bodies.

The Browns only had to run out the clock and Mayfield, who earlier had a key 28-yard run, scampered for 3 yards on 3rd-and-2 with 1:10 left.

"It's a moment I'll never forget," Mayfield said. "But we're not satisfied. We expected to be here."

Before the scoreboard clock in FirstEnergy Stadium ran off its final seconds, most of the 12,000 fans — there were some Terrible Towel wavers — cheered wildly and Browns players danced onto the field.

"This is what we imagined," said defensive star Myles Garrett.

The win completes a grueling turnaround for the Browns and their passionate fan base.

en coaches ago.

Stefanski has not only navigated the Browns through COVID-19 issues, he's got them back in the Super Bowl tournament.

The Browns barely practiced this week because of COVID-19 positive tests and protocols and went into their most important game in years without six players, including top cornerback Denzel Ward, and three assistant coaches.

Along with Roethlisberger, defensive star T.J. Watt, Cam Heyward and Maurice Pouncey didn't make the trip to Cleveland.

The Steelers were also missing cornerback Joe Haden, who tested positive for COVID-19 and may have to miss the playoff game.

The Browns were clinging to a 10-9 lead in the third quarter when Rudolph, under extreme pressure,

Stewart.

Cleveland capitalized on the turnover with wide receiver Jarvis Landry taking an inside handoff and scoring on a 3-yard run to put the Browns up 24-9. Landry, forced to sit out the first game of his career as a COVID-19 close contact, celebrated his score by rifling the ball against the padded end zone wall.

Chubb's 47-yard touchdown run on Cleveland's first series made it look like the Browns might be on their way to a comfortable win.

But nothing is ever easy for the Browns, and after their offense bogged down, the Steelers got two field goals by backup Matthew Wright to close within 10-6 at half-time.

Rudolph passed for a career-high 315 yards and two touchdowns, but found no